

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



A PUBLISHED INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT) WHICH HAS ENTERED THE NATIONAL PHASE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(43) International Publication Date
4 October 2001 (04.10.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/72148 A1

(51) International Patent Classification: A23L 1/40, A23P 1/02, 1/12, A23L 1/39

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP01/02724

(22) International Filing Date: 12 March 2001 (12.03.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
00106664.6 29 March 2000 (29.03.2000) EP

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): SOCI-
ETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A. (CH/CH); P.O. Box
353, CH-1800 Vevey (CH).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): MAHE, Yannick [FR/CH]; Schlosserstrasse 11, CH-8400 Winterthur (CH). ISLER, Ernst [CH/CH]; Langenmattstrasse 6, CH-8552 Felben-Wellhausen (CH). FROEHLICH, Markus [CH/CH]; Altwiesenstrasse 270, CH-8051 Zurich (CH).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(74) Agent: WAVRE, Claude-Alain; Avenue Nestlé 55, CH-1800 Vevey (CH).



WO 01/72148 A1

(54) Title: COOKING AID

(57) Abstract: Cooking aid composed of an envelope based on fat which is solid at room temperature and a fluid or pasty flavouring filling. The envelope of the product according to the invention melts rapidly upon contact with hot food or in a frying pan and possesses good mechanical resistance to handling at room temperature. The envelope comprises of the order of 40 to 100 % of fat and from 0 to 60 % of filling additives of the polysaccharide, protein or fibre type or a mixture thereof. The aqueous and/or fatty filling of the product according to the invention has a viscosity which is in the range between liquid honey and a pasty spread. Process for the manufacture of such a cooking aid.

COOKING AID

The present invention relates to a flavouring cooking aid capable of being melted or dissolved and
5 intended to be used for the seasoning of cooked foods and/or the cooking or the preparation of prepared meals. The present invention also relates to a process for manufacturing such a cooking aid.

The cooking aids currently available for
10 seasoning/flavouring exist, on the one hand, in the form of liquid or fluid products. However, the problem of portioning exists with this type of product. Moreover, products exist in powdered form which are added directly on the plate or to the dish. However,
15 this type of product is very hygroscopic and requires an appropriate packaging and is not easy to portion out either or to preserve once opened. The dissolution and the distribution of these pulverulent products is not always easy and results in the formation of lumps.
20 Ready-portioned cooking aids exist in the form of tablets. The latter are manufactured by the compacting of pulverulent/dehydrated ingredients. They must be dissolved in a liquid and this dissolution stage is sometimes long and is not very easy. Some of these
25 stock tablets are intended to be dissolved in rice, pasta and/or vegetable cooking water. Once cooked, the products are drained and practically all the flavourings dissolved in the cooking water are lost. Some cooking aids of the tablet type can also be
30 designed for cooking in a frying pan. However, these tablets exhibit poor melting and need to be crushed. In spite of this, the dispersion of the seasoning is far from being optimum and residual pieces or lumps are often observed, which is particularly unpleasant during
35 consumption. Furthermore, the tablets are manufactured from dehydrated ingredients and it is known that the concentration/dehydration operations are harmful to the organoleptic qualities of the products obtained, more particularly from the flavour point of view. Indeed,

the flavour intensity, richness and strength of the dehydrated/concentrated product are far from matching the initial product or a fluid product which is less concentrated.

5 Flavoured butters make it possible to overcome some of these problems, but their shelf life is limited and they have to be stored refrigerated. Moreover, this type of very fatty product constitutes a useful flavour vector only for lipophilic flavours.

10 Various forms of products of the flavouring capsule type exist; they generally consist of an external coating based on gelatin or alginate or another gelling polymer, which requires prolonged heating in aqueous medium to ensure dissolution and/or
15 rupture of this envelope and release of the contents.

The processes for manufacturing such capsules exploit the coagulating properties of these polymers and the surface tension forces. These capsules are thus produced through the formation of beads or drops in a
20 gelling solution (case of alginates) or a cooling solution (case of gelatin). However, this principle has its limits and the size of the beads formed is limited. In other cases, an empty capsule is formed, in a first instance, by moulding two halves, joining them and
25 filling the capsule formed.

JP 10075720 describes a food product composed of a fatty phase and a starchy phase. The fatty phase contains dispersed capsules consisting of a water-soluble envelope containing a flavouring ingredient.
30 When this product is dispersed and heated in a boiling aqueous phase, the water-soluble envelope dissolves and releases the flavouring ingredient. Such a product is intended for the manufacture of roux by adding boiling water.

35 Various patents describe capsules containing a flavouring composition in powdered, paste, aqueous liquid, oily liquid or emulsion form. In all these cases, the encapsulating material is a gelatin, an alginate, a derivative of these or any other water-

soluble gelling or cogelling polymer: JP 10014554; JP 09313154; DE 29713074; JP 09163963; WO 95/05751; EP 525731; JP 02079941.

Moreover, JP 08010313 describes a capsule-type
5 product containing a liquid filling. This capsule is in the form of a multilayer (3-layer) droplet in which the core is separated from the envelope by a lipophilic layer.

JP 01232963 describes a multilayer soft capsule
10 produced by lamination-moulding. The capsule material is chosen so as to have a high resistance to high temperatures, to acids, to bases and to water. Such a product is intended for long preservation of the filling towards external agents.

15 The aim of the present invention is to provide a cooking aid which is solid at room temperature and which dissolves rapidly in a boiling liquid or which melts rapidly upon contact with hot food or with the surface of a hot frying pan.

20 To this effect, the cooking aid according to the present invention is composed of an envelope based on fat which is solid at room temperature and a fluid or pasty flavouring filling.

The product thus has good mechanical resistance
25 to handling at room temperature and melts rapidly upon contact with food or a kitchen utensil which is hot, which allows rapid dissolution and dispersion of the filling. Also, especially in the case of seasoning cooked pasta, rice or vegetables, the fatty coating
30 melts rapidly, releasing the fluid filling which becomes rapidly distributed in the meat and vegetable dish. The proportion of the weight of the envelope in the product may be chosen so as to give the product a sufficient mechanical strength to allow easy unmoulding
35 and handling. The weight of the envelope may be in a range of the order of 30 to 90% of the final product, for example. Likewise, the fat may have a melting point of between 30 and 60°C.

In the case of a use of the product according to the invention in cooking mode, its properties make it possible to have instant and uniform distribution of the fat and the flavouring ingredients in the frying pan, avoiding the persistence of lumps and of coarse residues. Furthermore, the fluid filling makes it possible to provide novel and different flavour notes of a much better quality compared with the tablets. The flavour profile is richer and more balanced between the top notes and the tail notes. Thus, depending on the carrier for the flavouring ingredients (aqueous or fatty or both), it will be possible to provide a varied range of flavours, of a hydrophilic or lipophilic nature. The flavour profile will be in any case of a much better quality mainly because of the preservation of these top flavour notes since the filling does not undergo dehydration.

The envelope of the product according to the invention should thus have the following properties:

mechanical resistance to handling at room temperature and rapid melting in hot food or on contact with a hot frying pan. The specific formulation of this envelope has thereby allowed, via the selection of fats used as well as of filling additives, to solve these problems.

The quantity of fat contained in the envelope may be of the order of 40 to 100% approximately. The filling additives, up to 60% approximately of the weight of the envelope, may be of a polysaccharide and/or protein and/or fibre and/or salt nature. This may include native starch, chemically and/or physically modified starch, maltodextrin, glucose syrup or a mixture thereof, for example. The polysaccharides added to the fat constituting the envelope may be replaced completely or partially by protein derivatives of the whey protein and/or caseinate type, for example. Dietary fibres of the wheat fibre, methylcellulose or cellulose type, for example, may also form part of these filling additives for the envelope material. Such additives make it possible to increase the viscosity of

the envelope material. This is advantageous in the case where the proportion by weight of the envelope relative to the filling in the final product is low.

The fat may be preferably a hydrogenated or
5 fractionated vegetable fat such as hydrogenated palm oil, for example. Animal fat can only be used if it is hydrogenated. The fatty substance, or the mixture of fatty substances used for producing the envelope of the present invention, may have a melting point preferably
10 of between 40 and 55°C approximately. The viscosity of the mixture of the envelope material may be of the order of 4 to 18 Pa.s, in the region of 10 s⁻¹ and 40°C.

The envelope of the product according to the invention may, in addition, comprise vegetable
15 extracts, particles, spices such as curry, pepper, paprika, for example, colourings, flavourings and/or visual components such as flakes of parsley, garlic, basil, onion, for example and/or vitamins such as riboflavin for example. Moreover, the envelope of the
20 product according to the invention may be partially or completely coated with flakes of dehydrated vegetables or semolina, for example.

The SFC (solid fat content) curve of a fatty substance defines the fraction of fat present in the
25 solid state in the fatty substance as a function of the temperature over a given temperature range, in general 0° - 60°C approximately for dietary fatty substances. In the present case, the fat used should have a high solids content in the region of room temperature.
30 Furthermore, the SFC curve should decrease rapidly beyond 40°C approximately so as to ensure rapid melting during contact with hot foods for consumption. This SFC curve thus advantageously has a biphasic appearance with a low slope between 0°C and room temperature (20
35 to 30°C approximately) and a very high slope over 35° to 45°C approximately.

These properties thus allow rapid melting of the envelope when the product is added to a hot rice, pasta or vegetable portion just before consumption,

while providing good mechanical strength at room temperature.

The unit mass of the product according to the invention may be of about 10-15 g, which allows
5 seasoning of a portion of about 200-300 g of cooked food. The quantity of units of product according to the invention to be added may be adjusted according to the quantity of food to be seasoned.

This rapid melting property of the envelope of
10 the product according to the invention also allows its application as cooking aid in the preparation of prepared meals and dishes. It is thus possible, for example, to add the product according to the invention to a hot frying pan. The envelope melts immediately,
15 the fluid or pasty filling is released and spreads or melts rapidly in the frying pan. It is consequently possible to add meat, fish, vegetables and/or rice, for example, in order to carry out the cooking with or without addition of liquid, for example. In a similar
20 manner, it is possible to add the product according to the invention a few minutes before the end of the cooking of vegetables, meats, fish, rice, prepared meals, sauce dishes, for example.

The envelope of the product according to the
25 invention may also contain, in addition, processed cheese for use for oven-cooking or grating, for example.

The filling/envelope weight ratio in the final product may be in a very broad range, from 70/30 to
30 10/90, approximately, preferably 50/50. The value of this ratio is dependent on the size, the shape of the product (sphere, parallelepiped, cylinder portion, bar, heart, cone, truncated cone, or any other moulded shape, for example) as well as the viscosity of the
35 filling. The thickness of the envelope will depend on the viscosities of the filling and on the constituent material of the envelope, on the shape, the size and the filling/envelope weight ratio in the product according to the invention. As a guide, the thickness

of this envelope may be in the region of 1.5 to 4.0 mm for a spherical product of 10-15 grams, for example. The finer the envelope, the more rapid its melting and the more rapid the dispersion of the filling.

5 The filling in the product according to the invention is a fluid or pasty flavouring product whose viscosity may correspond to a range between liquid honey and a pasty spread. It is advantageous to use a particularly fluid product for all the reasons
10 explicitly stated above: rapid dispersion, flavour profile which is more complex and of better quality. However, the filling may be a pumpable pasty product. The filling in the product according to the invention may be based on water, based on fat or an emulsion.
15 This filling may be a concentrated meat and/or vegetable broth of the chicken broth or beef broth type, for example. The filling may be produced according to the mode of manufacture of a reaction flavouring. Such a flavouring is traditionally
20 manufactured by heating a mixture comprising protein or amino derivatives with reducing sugars. Depending on the temperature-duration of treatment pair applied, different flavour profiles are obtained.

 The more or less concentrated broth may be
25 added or replaced by a fatty preparation based on olive oil, butter oil, sunflower oil, palm oil, which are more or less hydrogenated, for example. This fatty preparation as well as the broth may be supplemented and/or flavoured by addition of flavourings, spices and
30 seasonings such as basil, parsley, garlic, onion, curry, ginger, thyme, fine herbs, chilli, coriander, plant and/or animal food particles or cheese for example.

 In the case of a use of the product according
35 to the invention in prepared meals of the vegetable and/or meat type which are sautéed or in sauce form, the filling may contain one or more thickening ingredients of the native and/or modified starch, guar flour, alginate or maltodextrin type, alone or in the

form of mixtures, for example. Thus, during the melting of the envelope, the filling may serve not only as seasoning but also as a binder with the possible addition of liquids such as wine, water, vinegar, cream
5 or milk, for example.

The product according to the invention may be dissolved in a hot liquid for the instant reconstitution of a hot drink, of a broth or of a soup. The product according to the invention has the
10 advantage of being easy to portion out, instantly dissolved without lumps with minimum mechanical force in a hot liquid and also has optimum organoleptic characteristics.

Similarly, the product according to the
15 invention may be melted/dissolved in the base of a frying pan after cooking vegetables and/or meat or in a more or less large quantity of hot or cold liquid, this being in order to produce glazing or a sauce, for example.

20 The preservation of the product at room temperature may be achieved via the salt content of the filling which may be of the order of 10 to 40% and preferably from 20 to 30%. The salt present in the filling optionally combined with other water activity
25 depressants (humectants) such as polysaccharides, glucose syrups, for example, contributes to reducing the water activity of the product (A_w) which may preferably be in a range of the order of 0.2 to 0.8. In the case where the filling has an A_w greater than 0.8,
30 it will be possible to envisage the use of chemical preservatives, such as sulphites for example, in order to improve the preservation of the product.

The aim of the present invention is also to provide a process for the manufacture of such a cooking
35 aid.

To this effect, the process for the manufacture of the product according to the invention consists in coextruding envelope and fluid or pasty filling

material in a mould so as to entrap the filling inside the envelope material.

In a preferred embodiment of the present process, it is possible to:

- 5 - heat the envelope material so as to have a pumpable product whose viscosity is greater than or equal to the viscosity of the filling, and
- carry out coextrusion of the filling and of the envelope material in a mould so as to envelop the
- 10 - filling inside the envelope material.

— The whole, once moulded-shaped by means of coextrusion in a mould, may be rapidly cooled or left at room temperature, at around 18-24°C, until the envelope becomes firm.

- 15 The filling may be produced directly in a mixer by adding pulverulent materials and liquids. The temperature for dosing the mixture may be between 10 and 40°C approximately depending on the viscosity of this mixture of pasty fluid. The filling can thus be
- 20 heated so as to ensure its pumpability.

- In parallel, the envelope material of the product according to the invention is manufactured. The fat can thus be mixed at around 50 to 60°C, in a thermostatically maintained ribbon mixer for example.
- 25 Polysaccharides and/or protein matter and/or fibres may be optionally added and the mixture may be cooled to a temperature of the order of 25°C to 40°C approximately so as to obtain a pumpable, malleable and mouldable product.

- 30 The two mixtures, fluid or pasty filling on the one hand and envelope material on the other hand, may be coextruded in a mould so as to envelop the filling in the envelope material. The filling may be extruded through a central coextrusion nozzle and the fatty
- 35 mixture for the envelope through a peripheral nozzle. The injection orifice of the mould can then be blocked by sealing with a film, for example. The whole can then be left as such for cooling to room temperature (18 to 24°C approximately) or subjected to fast cooling, so as

to rapidly harden the envelope material. This cooling may be carried out by passing the moulded product through a cooling tunnel at about 2 to 10°C for example, or by any other means capable of ensuring
5 rapid crystallization of the fat and the solidification of the envelope.

Advantageously, a step may be introduced for removing possible bubbles by application of vibrations between the coextrusion-moulding step and the optional
10 sealing step.

The moulds used may be metallic or plastic moulds, for example. In the case of the use of reusable metallic moulds, the product may be unmoulded after the cooling step and packaged in cases, blister packs or
15 boxes, for example, or any other packaging capable of protecting the product. A blister pack is a packaging consisting of one or more plastic shells, optionally sealed, glued to a carton base or plastic support. Such a packaging is intended to present and protect small-
20 sized merchandise. The non-recyclable moulds can serve as primary packaging, the product is then provided in a sealed blister-type packaging. The blister pack can then be placed in a case in order to improve the protection of the product and allow information
25 relating to the product to be written on. In this embodiment, the consumer can open the blister pack at the time the product according to the invention is used.

The moulds used for shaping the product
30 according to the invention may have any type of shape: sphere, cube, parallelepiped, cone, heart, bar, various animals and persons, for example. The sizes and proportions of the product according to the invention will depend on the flavouring power and/or the binding
35 effect required. The volume of the product according to the invention may be within a range of the order of 8 to 25 cm³, for example. Theoretically, there is no limit regarding the sizes of the product according to the invention. The products according to the invention can

be preserved at room temperature over periods of up to 12 or even 18 months.

The following examples make it possible to illustrate a few variants of the product and different
5 embodiments for using the product according to the invention.

EXAMPLE 1

10 Chicken stock

Production of the envelope material: A material constituting the envelope is prepared which has the following composition:

- 15 - Partially hydrogenated/fractionated palm oil 1.5 kg
- Chopped parsley (flakes) 2 g
- Vitamin B2 0.5 g
- Paprika powder 1.7 g
- Maltodextrin 560 g

- 20 To prepare this material, the fat is heated to 55-60°C and introduced into a jacketed ribbon mixer. The other ingredients are then added and mixed.

The mixture is then cooled in the mixer by means of the jacket whose temperature is set at 30°C.

- 25 At the end of this step, the mixture is easily pumpable and malleable and has a relatively viscous texture. Its temperature is then 30°C approximately. It is then transferred to a buffer tank kept at the same temperature.

- 30 *Production of the filling:* The filling consists of a reaction flavouring prepared as follows. The following ingredients are mixed in a reactor and heated for 90 min at 98°C:

- 35 - Salt 750 g
- Water 1 250 kg
- Granulated sugar 315 g
- Maltodextrin 316 g
- Powdered chicken meat 72 g

	- Powdered yeast extract	72 g
	- Sodium inosinate	21 g
	- Fried onion flavour	16 g
	- L-Cysteine	12 g
5	- Turmeric	16 g
	- Rosemary	3.15 g
	- Diammonium phosphate	7 g
	- Pepper	3 g
	- Chicken flavour	3.5 g
10	- Cassava starch	87 g
	- Keltrol alginate	5.5 g

After the reaction, the mixture is cooled to room temperature. The preparation of this mixture may be carried out beforehand. The mixture may be measured out at room temperature. It is transferred to a non-heated buffer tank.

The mixtures are transferred to the corresponding hoppers of an Awema UDM 202/96 measuring device (AWEMA AG, ZURICH) via thermostatically maintained pumps. The temperature of these hoppers is also maintained so as to maintain a constant viscosity, that is 30°C for the envelope material and 25°C for the filling.

The mixtures are directly injected and measured out by coextrusion via double measuring nozzles (diameter of the inner nozzle 7.6 mm, diameter of the outer nozzle 9 mm) into moulds comprising 20 to 120 PET (PolyEthylene Terephthalate) cells having a parallelepipedal shape. The pistons measuring out the products distribute the filling and the envelope material in a proportion of 50/50. The total mass delivered is about 12 g. A film is then sealed over the moulds by heating.

The moulds are then cut so as to have sheets of 4 to 10 blisters.

The product is then cooled in a cooling tunnel at 5°C, for about 10 minutes, so as to ensure rapid solidification of the envelope material.

The sheets of 4 to 10 blisters are then packaged in carton cases.

Use: The cooking aid thus obtained can serve for reconstituting a chicken stock. 200 g of boiling water are added to a cube thus obtained of the product according to the invention. The envelope melts rapidly and releases the fluid filling which becomes easily diluted in the hot water. A chicken stock is thus easily and rapidly obtained which has the flavour characteristics of a freshly prepared stock.

EXAMPLE 2

15 "Al pesto" seasoning for pasta

The method of producing the product according to the invention is identical to that described in Example 1 except as regards the ingredients, the preparation of the mixture corresponding to the filling and the envelope/filling proportion in the final product which is, in this case, 42/58.

The following ingredients are used for the manufacture of the envelope material:

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 25 | - Partially hydrogenated/fractionated palm oil | 750 g |
| | - Partially hydrogenated palm oil | 740 g |
| | - Maltodextrin | 520 g |
| | - Powdered spinach | 52 g |
| | - Parsley flakes | 21 g |

30

Ingredients for the filling:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------|
| | - Powdered cheese | 233 g |
| | - Salt | 990 g |
| | - Parsley | 90 g |
| 35 | - Basil | 58 g |
| | - Garlic powder | 116 g |
| | - Cheese flavour | 88 g |
| | - Powdered onion | 58 g |
| | - Powdered spinach | 58 g |

- Basil flavour 26 g
- Butter oil 620 g
- Olive oil 585 g

5 The mixture corresponding to the filling is prepared in a ribbon mixer, the fat is introduced at 55°C approximately, the other ingredients being at room temperature. The homogenized mixture is then cooled to a temperature of about 30°C.

10 Here, the product is coextruded in a manner identical to what is explained in Example 1 in blisters having the shape of a cylinder section.

Use: The cooking aid thus prepared may be used for
15 seasoning and flavouring pasta. Pasta of the tagliatelle type is cooked in unsalted boiling water in a traditional manner. Once cooked, the pasta is drained, and poured onto a dish or a plate. The cooking aid according to the invention is added to the hot
20 pasta in an amount of 1 article (about 12 g) per 220 g of pasta. Upon contact with the hot pasta, the product envelope as well as the fatty filling melt within the dish. A simple mixing makes it possible to easily and rapidly distribute the seasoning within the cooked
25 pasta.

EXAMPLE 3

Thyme/lemon cube for a preparation for frying

30 The method of preparing a product according to the invention is identical to that described in Example 1 except as regards the ingredients. Here, the product is coextruded in blisters having a parallelepipedal
35 shape.

Ingredients for the filling:

- Salt 495 g
- Fried onion flavour 75 g

	- Powdered thyme	17.5 g
	- Lemon-lime	17.5 g
	- Paprika powder	7.5 g
	- Powdered bay leaves	5 g
5	- Pepper	2.5 g
	- Butter oil	1.9 kg

Ingredients for the envelope:

	- Partially hydrogenated/fractionated palm oil	937 g
10	- Partially hydrogenated palm oil (45-46°C, melting point)	937 g
	- Corn starch	600 g
	- Curry powder	12.5 g
	- Sweet paprika	12.5 g

15

Use: A cooking aid (about 12 g) thus obtained is placed in a hot frying pan; the envelope melts immediately and thus releases the fatty flavouring filling which in turn melts. About 150 g of thinly
20 sliced chicken are added and thus fried in the mixture until the meat is cooked.

CLAIMS

1. Cooking aid composed of an envelope based on fat which is solid at room temperature and on a fluid
5 or pasty flavouring filling.
2. Cooking aid according to Claim 1, characterized in that the envelope has a fat content of between 40 and 100%, preferably between 60 and 80%, and comprises up to 60% of polysaccharides and/or of proteins and/or
10 of fibres and/or of salt.
3. Cooking aid according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the envelope fat has a melting range of between 30 and 60°C.
4. Cooking aid according to either of Claims 1 and
15 2, characterized in that the filling/envelope proportion relative to the final product is in a range from 70/30 to 10/90.
5. Cooking aid according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the filling is a filling with
20 an aqueous and/or fatty base.
6. Cooking aid according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the filling contains food particles and/or thickening agents.
7. Cooking aid according to either of Claims 1 and
25 2, characterized in that food particles are included in and/or cover the envelope.
8. Cooking aid according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the filling comprises salt in a proportion of 10 to 40% of the weight of the filling.
- 30 9. Cooking aid according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the water activity of the filling is between 0.2 and 0.8.
10. Process for the manufacture of a product according to Claims 1 and 2 comprising the following
35 steps:
 - heating the envelope material so as to have a pumpable product whose viscosity is greater than or equal to the viscosity of the filling, and

- carrying out coextrusion of the filling and of the envelope material in a mould so as to envelop the filling inside the envelope material.

11. Process according to Claim 10, characterized in
5 that the filling material is heated.
12. Process according to either of Claims 10 and 11, characterized in that the moulded product is subjected to a forced cooling.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat'l Application No
PCT/EP 01/02724

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A23L1/40 A23P1/02 A23P1/12 A23L1/39

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A23L A23P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, FSTA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 888 721 A (SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A.) 7 January 1999 (1999-01-07) claim 1; figure 1	1-9
A	column 2, line 24 - line 36 column 2, line 40 - line 56 column 3, line 4 - line 28 ---	10-12
X	EP 0 938 847 A (SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A.) 1 September 1999 (1999-09-01) claims 1,4,5 column 2, line 1 - line 10 column 2, line 21 - line 24 examples --- -/-	1,3-6, 10,12

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 August 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/08/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040. Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Tallgren, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. Application No.
PCT/EP 01/02724

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>WO 98 15188 A (FERRERO S.P.A.) 16 April 1998 (1998-04-16) claims 1,7-9,17,18 page 6, line 5 - line 11 figure 1</p>	1,2,5-7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 01/02724

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 888721 A	07-01-1999	AU 7406298 A	14-01-1999
		BR 9802345 A	28-03-2000
		CA 2237892 A	04-01-1999
		CZ 9802122 A	13-01-1999
		EP 0888723 A	07-01-1999
		HU 9801504 A	29-03-1999
		IL 124945 A	31-10-2000
		JP 11069963 A	16-03-1999
		PL 327224 A	18-01-1999
		SK 91198 A	11-02-1999
		TR 9801292 A	18-01-1999
EP 938847 A	01-09-1999	EP 0931462 A	28-07-1999
WO 9815188 A	16-04-1998	CH 690412 A	15-09-2000
		AU 4943797 A	05-05-1998
		BR 9712277 A	31-08-1999
		EP 0936871 A	25-08-1999